IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Toru Nagase, et al.	**Examiner:**	Melanie Ruano Tyson
Serial No:	10/678,503	**Art Unit:**	3773
Filed:	October 3, 2003	**Docket:**	17096
For:	SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	**Dated:**	September 17, 2008
Conf. No.:	1949		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated February 14, 2008 and Examiner telephone call of September 9, 2008 and supplementing the Response filed on June 13, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the following amendments and remarks:

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent & Trademark Office via Electronic Filing through the United States Patent and Trademark Office e-business website, on the date set forth below.

Dated: September 17, 2008

Thomas Spinelli